

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

BILL NO. R-05-13 __

RESOLUTION

ENHANCING THE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Authority's high desert environment receives an average of eight inches of rainfall per year, it is appropriate to increase conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan requires that "water resources of the metropolitan area shall be managed to ensure a permanent adequate water supply"; and

WHEREAS, conservation has been found to extend the Authority's water supply at a fraction of the cost of other alternatives and that further measures will help to ensure adequate supply of water; and

WHEREAS, dishwashers account for approximately 2% of home water use and are therefore not likely to produce significant water savings; and

WHEREAS, funds currently allocated to the dishwasher rebate program could be better spent on a program with a higher potential for water savings; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary Toilet Rebate Program has been in effect for more than ten years and it is appropriate to require the conversion of low-flow toilets prior to re-sale of a residential and commercial property; and

WHEREAS, the Water Utility Authority has achieved the conservation goal of 30% water usage reduction from 250 gallons per capita per day to 175 gallons per capita per day; and

WHEREAS, the Water Utility Authority has achieved a 38% water usage reduction from 489 gallons per household per day to 303 gallons per household per day; and

WHEREAS, the Water Utility Authority adopted bill R-04-12 which increased the water conservation goal from a 30% to a 40% savings, or a goal of approximately 150 gallons per person per day; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance the water conservation rebate program in
2 order to reach the 40% savings; and

3 WHEREAS, the Water Resources Advisory Committee established by the Water
4 Utility Authority has recommended water conservation programs to implement in order
5 to reach the 40% savings.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AUTHORITY:

7 Section 1. The toilet rebate program, washing machine rebate program,
8 dishwasher rebate program, hot water recirculation rebate program, rain barrel rebate
9 program, sprinkler timer rebate program and xeriscape rebate program are all
10 authorized by the Authority.

11 Section 2. The dishwasher rebate program will be rescinded at the end of
12 2005. A public education program shall be initiated to inform customers that this
13 program will be rescinded.

14 Section 3. Beginning November 1, 2005, the Xeriscape Rebate Program shall
15 be expanded to include an increased rebate for landscapes that are supported without
16 supplemental irrigation. These landscapes will be supported through a rainwater
17 collection system and/or by natural rainfall. The increased amount of the rebate shall
18 be \$0.80 per square foot. Only plants on the Water Conservation Program's extremely
19 low water use plant list will be eligible to be planted in these areas. In addition, in order
20 to receive the rebate, these areas must be approved by the Water Utility's Xeriscape
21 Inspector. In order to allow root establishment, supplemental irrigation shall be allowed
22 for a two-year period for shrubs and grasses and a three-year period for trees.

23 Section 4. The Water Utility shall work with the City of Albuquerque and
24 Bernalillo County to draft an ordinance requiring that all toilets on both commercial and
25 residential properties be converted to low-flow prior to re-sale. Once this Ordinance has
26 been established by the City of Albuquerque, the toilet rebate program will be phased
27 out.

28 Section 5. The Water Utility shall develop water conservation best
29 management practices for new residential development and shall work with the City of
30 Albuquerque and Bernalillo County to change the building code or other regulations in
31 order to achieve 180 gallons per household as a goal for new residential homes. The
32 Water Utility Authority shall incorporate the 180 gallons per household goal into
33 development agreements for new services of water.

1 Section 6. The recommendations of the Water Resources Advisory Committee
2 on water conservation programs to reach the Authority's 10% savings goal will be
3 incorporated in the Authority's strategic planning, budgeting and improvement process.
4 They include the following:

5 A. Initiate and maintain an aggressive policy to reduce unaccounted for water
6 from 11% to 7% over the next four years. In four years, review the program and set a
7 new goal.

8 B. Continue to change the rate structure to encourage water conservation
9 and penalize water waste.

10 C. Develop audit programs to target nursing homes, hospitals, fitness
11 centers, apartments, high schools, hotels, motels and restaurants. These areas should
12 be targeted because they are non-residential high water users and the audit program
13 has been shown to be very effective at reducing water use.

14 D. Implement an Irrigation Efficiency Rebate. This program will include rain
15 barrels, cisterns, rain sensors for irrigation systems, upgrades to sprinkler heads,
16 movement of sprinklers away from sidewalks and curbs, conversion to low-flow and drip
17 irrigation systems and soil amendments. Incentives for these options should be based
18 upon the potential water savings.

19 E. Work with local governments to develop an ordinance requiring that
20 irrigation systems be installed by a licensed contractor trained in efficient irrigation.
21 Provide training for irrigation system installers to become licensed in the region.

22 F. Establish a rebate for non-residential customers that is strictly results
23 based. If you reduce your use by X amount, you will receive a rebate of Y dollars.

24 G. Develop an ordinance requiring that multiple cycles of water be used in
25 cooling towers.

26 H. Develop an ordinance requiring sub-metering of multi-family residential
27 accounts (apartments, mobile home parks and some home-owner associations).

28 I. Expand partnerships with educators, neighborhood representatives,
29 master gardeners and others interested in developing water conservation awareness.

30 J. Develop a Rain Water Harvesting Ordinance that requires use of water
31 harvesting for all commercial projects over a certain size and all residential
32 developments with more than a certain number of units.

1 K. Expand Water Waste Enforcement during the irrigation season to reduce
2 fugitive water, time of day violations and water theft.

3 Section 7. The Water Conservation Landscaping and Water Waste Ordinance
4 and the Water Conservation Large Users Ordinance shall be reviewed and updated.